



BLUEGRASS QUARTET

Country Current the premier country-bluegrass group from The United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., showcases a four-member acoustic ensemble performing traditional, contemporary and original compositions. Former Country Current director Master Chief Musician Bill Emerson established the ensemble in 1989.

The bluegrass group began playing to standing-room only audiences in libraries and concert halls in the Washington, D.C. area. Soon after, the group received national attention on TNN's "Nashville Now," WWVA's "Wheeling Jamboree," and at Opryland Park.

In 2002 the group was featured at the Folk Festival in Anchorage, Alaska and in 2001 at the Mississippi Bluegrass Reunion in Purvis, Miss. Performances in 2000 include the Colorado River Bluegrass Festival in Blythe, Calif., the Withlacoochee River Bluegrass Jamboree in Dunnellon, Fla., and the Two Rivers Bluegrass Festival in Leakesville, Miss. Performances in 1999 include the Kissimmee Bluegrass Festival in Fla. and the Cherokee Bluegrass Festival in N.C. The group performed at the "Winterhawk" festival in Hillsdale, N.Y. in 1999, 1998, 1997, and 1996. In 1997 the quartet performed at the International Bluegrass Music Awards Show in Louisville, Ky., and with Rhonda Vincent at the 18th Annual Bluegrass and Chili Festival in Tulsa, Okla. They also appeared at the "Wintergrass 2000 and 1996" festival in Tacoma, Wash. The quartet performed with the late Bill Monroe in a televised ceremony honoring the "Father of Bluegrass" in his hometown of Rosine, Ky. in 1995 and at the 1994 International Bluegrass Music Association Convention "Showcase" in Owensboro, Ky. They performed at the 1994 "Festival of the Bluegrass" in Lexington, Ky.; the Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival in Brunswick, Maine; the Southernmost Bluegrass Festival in Key West, Fla.; the Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival in Fallon, Nev.; the Spirit of the Suwanee in Live Oak, Fla.; plus festivals in Rocky Gap, Pa.; Grass Valley, Calif.; and Doyle Lawson's Family Bluegrass Festival. In 1992 they performed at the Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm.

Members include **Senior Chief Musician Wayne C. Taylor**, leader, emcee, guitar and lead vocals; **Chief Musician Keith M. Arneson**, section leader, banjo, guitar and vocals; and **Musicians First Class Joseph L. Wheatley**, string bass and vocals; and **Patrick J. White**, fiddle, mandolin and vocals.